



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD **EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AWARD PROGRAM (EAAP)**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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AWARD AMOUNT

Q: HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I GET EACH YEAR FOR SCHOOL?

A: You can receive *up to* the following amounts for the 2010-2011 academic year:

- \$1,551 at Community College (per Cal Grant B)
- \$10,302 at the University of California or a nonpublic institution (per Cal Grant A)
- \$4,026 at California State University (per Cal Grant A)
- Graduate studies: up to the maximum amount of Cal Grant A + \$500 for books and supplies [per section 69999.18 (c)]

The maximum amounts reflect the annotated Cal Grant awards. Cal Grant maximum amounts are refigured annually and subject to change.

Q: ARE CAL GRANT A AND B DOLLAR AMOUNTS PER SEMESTER OR PER YEAR?

A: The amounts are for one academic year and will be sent out as a check during each term (semester, quarter).

Q: HOW WILL I RECEIVE PAYMENT?

A: You will receive payment through your institution's Financial Aid office each term. This will be in the form of a check written in your name. Upon receipt of the check, funds may be immediately subject to satisfying any financial holds attached to your account at the school.

ELIGIBILITY

Q: I'VE BEEN IN THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD FOR OVER 4 YEARS, BUT I LIVE IN NEVADA. DOES THIS AFFECT MY ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CNG EAAP?

A: Yes, only residents of California are eligible for awards.

Q: I SERVED 4 YEARS IN THE NATIONAL GUARD BUT HAVE ONLY BEEN IN THE CNG FOR 1 YEAR. DOES MY TIME COUNT TOWARDS THE 2-YEAR REQUIREMENT?

A: No, a CNG EAAP applicant must have a minimum of 2 years of service in the California National Guard or the California State Military Reserve. Time in other service does not count for this program.

Q: I SERVED 2 YEARS IN THE ACTIVE ARMY BUT HAVE ONLY BEEN IN THE CNG FOR 1 YEAR. DOES MY ACTIVE DUTY TIME COUNT TOWARDS THE 2-YEAR REQUIREMENT?

A: No, a CNG EAAP applicant must have a minimum of 2 years of service in the California National Guard or the California State Military Reserve. Time in other service does not count for this program.

Q: I AM PURSUING MY MASTER'S DEGREE. CAN I USE THIS PROGRAM?

A: Yes. You can use the EAAP to obtain any certificate/diploma/degree not already held, including a doctorate's. You must obtain the certificate/diploma/degree at one of the [eligible institutions](#).

EAAP OR CAL GRANT

Q: THE FORM ASKS ME TO CHOOSE THE CAL GRANT OR THE CNG EAAP. HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

A: The Cal Grant program is more exclusive than the CNG EAAP. Many service members will not be eligible for the Cal Grant.

EAAP	Cal Grant
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must attend at least 3 units a term• Merit-based• No age requirements• There are no GPA requirements to enter but a 2.0 cumulative GPA must be maintained while in the program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must attend at least 6 units a term• Based on income• Be under 29• GPA (2.0 to attend a community college, 3.0 to attend a UC or CSU)• Open to general public
Can be used for any degree not currently held	Can only be used for an undergraduate or vocational degree (applicant cannot already hold an undergraduate degree)

If you choose the Cal Grant, you will not receive an EAAP award check, but you will use a percentage of your eligibility unless you go on a Leave of Absence (see [Absences/Deployments](#)).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q: HOW DO I COMPLETE THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING?

A: Once you've initialed all of the boxes, filled in the information boxes, and signed the second page, you need to coordinate with your unit of assignment to have your Commander sign it prior to turning it in. In most cases, this can be done by mail, fax, scan, or in person. After obtaining your Commander's signature, the SOU needs to be sent back to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax 916-854-3739)

Q: I HAD TO REPORT MY ANNUAL INCOME ON THE FAFSA AND WANT TO KNOW IF IT IS BEING USED TO DECIDE WHO GETS AWARDED. I MAKE A DECENT INCOME, SO IS IT A WASTE OF TIME TO APPLY?

A: No; the CNG EAAP is a merit-based program and has nothing to do with your income level. At no time is your annual income used or referenced for this program.

Q: HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM SELECTED OR NOT AFTER SUBMITTING MY APPLICATION?

A: You will receive correspondence through the mail stating whether or not you were selected to receive an EAAP award.

INSTITUTIONS

Q: WHERE CAN I FIND A LIST OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS?

A: The list is available in a drop-down box on the application. You can also check eligible institutions by name and location at http://sandbox.csac.ca.gov/internet/Institution_Search.asp?mode=retrieve.

Q: MY INSTITUTION IS NOT LISTED ON THE APPLICATION. HOW CAN MY INSTITUTION BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS?

A: Contact your institution's veteran's benefits coordinator or the financial aid office. They can contact the California Student Aid Commission.

ABSENCES/DEPLOYMENTS

Q: I AM NOT ATTENDING FOR THE FALL SEMESTER. WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO STAY IN THE PROGRAM?

A: If you are going to miss one or more semesters, you need to submit a Leave of Absence request in order to keep your priority number. If you do not submit a LOA request, you will have to reapply to the program and go through the prioritizing process again. Send the request to Ms. Katrina Beck at Joint Forces Headquarters by e-mail or fax. (katrina.beck2@us.army.mil or fax 916-854-3739)

SUMMER TERM

Q: CAN I USE THE MONEY FOR SUMMER SESSIONS?

A: This question has two possible answers:

1. If you are attending an institution that requires mandatory summer sessions, you will receive money for the summer sessions. Or,
2. If you are attending an institution where summer sessions are discretionary (optional), you may receive money if there are remaining funds available. When making a decision regarding your summer attendance, remember a participant receives 400% of program eligibility based on full-time enrollment for fall and spring. Eligibility is used for each term the participant attends and the amount of usage is determined by the institution's type of term (quarter or semester) and your attendance status. This means you may not have enough to fully cover your fourth year.